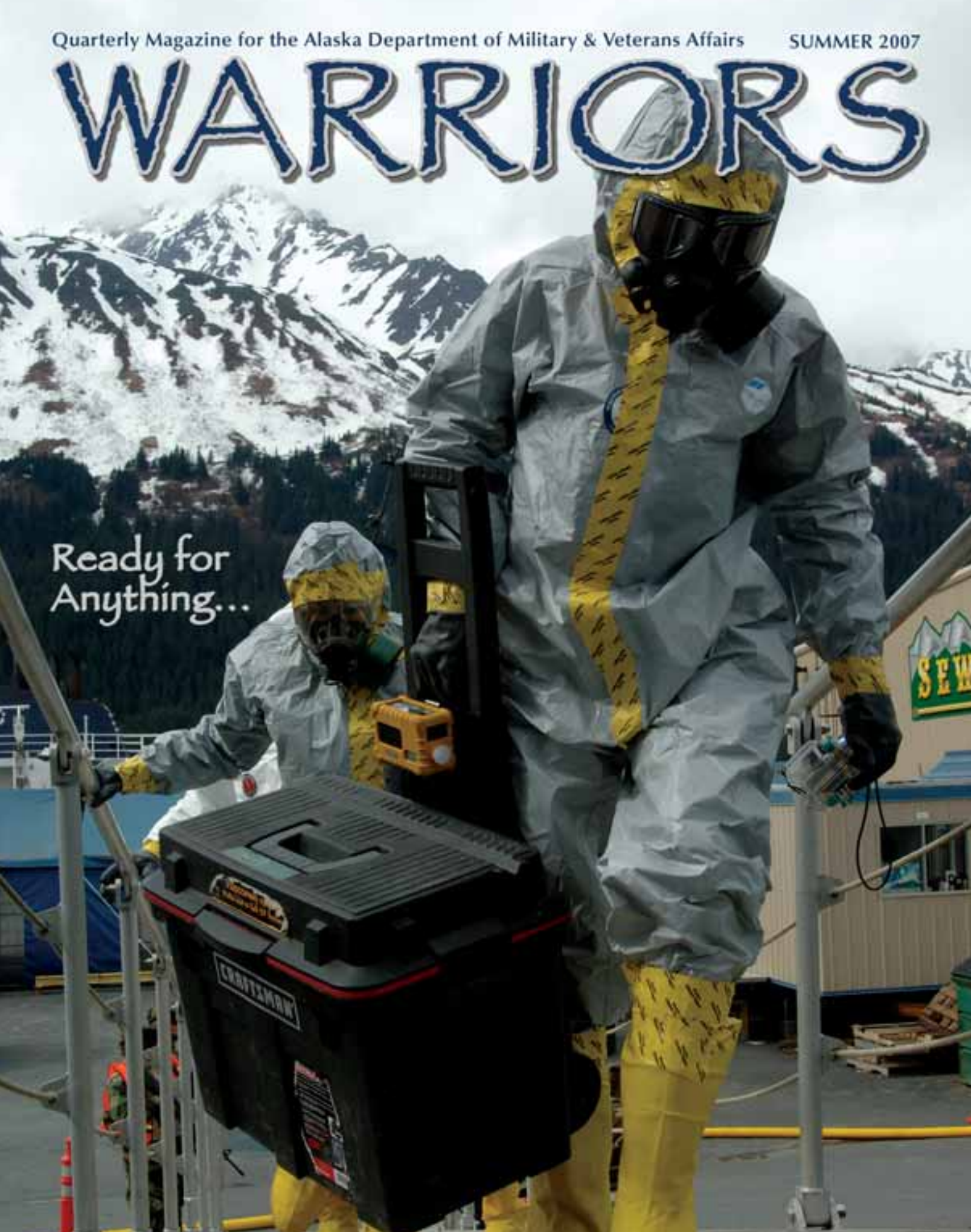


Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

SUMMER 2007

WARRIORS

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WARRIORS

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Exercise Takes to the Skies. Captain Scott Altenburg, 144th Airlift Squadron, pilots an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 Hercules to McChord Air Force Base, Wash., during a simulated medivac exercise during Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.

Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

Ready for Anything.

Sergeant Holt Duffin, front, and Senior Airman Nina Kolyvanova of the Alaska National Guard's 103rd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) board the USNS Henry J. Kaiser in biohazard suits to investigate a simulated report of suspicious chemicals during an exercise scenario for Alaska Shield/Northern Edge. The civil support team worked in conjunction with the Seward police and fire departments, the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, and many other organizations to practice interagency coordination in an emergency situation. Photo: Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel N. Woods, U.S. Navy



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HOW TO REACH US

Letters: Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. **Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members,

veterans and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address and comments to:

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BATTLE TESTED



Dispatches from the Front...

Hikers Rescued from Flat Top

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Rescuers from the Alaska Air National Guard successfully rescued two hikers off of Flattop Mountain, in Chugach State Park just east of Anchorage, in May.

The first Flattop rescue for the Alaska Air National Guard this year was to assist an injured hiker who fell near the summit of the mountain on May 11. He was unable to walk and had cut his hands badly. Pararescuemen from the 212th Rescue Squadron hoisted the injured man onto a Pavehawk helicopter from the 210th Rescue Squadron to fly him to an Anchorage hospital for treatment.

Then on May 28 the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons were called upon again to rescue a 19-year-old injured man from Flattop. Reports indicated the hiker had suffered ankle and leg injuries.

The RCC awarded the 210th and 212th Rescue Squadrons one save for each of the missions. ■



Team Confidence. Captain Joshua Shrader, commander of Bravo Company, 297th Support Battalion, leads his troops through Camp Denali's confidence course May 18. In preparation for their Security Forces Mission in Iraq later this year, the 297th Support Battalion practiced team-building and training exercises.

Photo: Specialist Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

Air Guard Assists Seaman Injured in British Submarine

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... The Alaska Air National Guard came to the aid of a British seaman who was injured on board a Royal Navy submarine in Prudhoe Bay March 20.

The British submarine HMS Tireless was in Prudhoe Bay participating in a bi-national United States-United Kingdom exercise ICEX 2007. During the night of March 20, the Rescue Coordination Center at Camp Denali

received word from the exercise's Joint Task Force that a self-contained oxygen generator exploded on the HMS Tireless, injuring one seaman and killing two others on board.

The Joint Task Force requested assistance in transporting the injured seaman to Anchorage for medical attention. Less than an hour later, an Alaska Air National Guard HC-130 aircraft from the 211th Rescue Squadron

with pararescuemen aboard from the 212th Rescue Squadron was en route to Deadhorse to pick up the injured man.

The patient and a doctor were flown in an HC-130 to Kulis Air National Guard Base in Anchorage, where an ambulance was waiting on scene to transport the man to a local hospital.

The RCC awarded one save to the 211th and 212th Rescue Squadrons. ■



That Others May Live.

Airmen from the Alaska Air National Guard's 176th Wing receive the 2006 Jolly Green Association Rescue of the Year Award for their efforts in the successful July 2006 rescue of 23 people stranded at sea on a listing cargo ship. Front row, from left: Major John Morse, 211th RQS; and Major Darin Slaten, 210th RQS. Second row, from left: Master Sergeant Paul Spychalski, 176th AMS; Master Sergeant Mike Soik, 211th RQS; Master Sergeant Tom Cicardo, 211th RQS; Colonel Tim Grams, 176th OG; Technical Sergeant Bobby Schnell, 212th RQS; and Master Sergeant Rob Carle, 210th RQS.

Photo: Courtesy of R.J. Hayes

Where in the World

Air Guard Deploys for Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Captain Kelly Mellard,
168th Air Refueling Wing

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska ... Airmen from the 168th Security Forces Squadron, Alaska Air National Guard, left Fairbanks earlier this year for a six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This is the fourth combat deployment for the Squadron since the start of the Global War on Terrorism and the second combat deployment to Iraq," said Major Carl Alvarez, 168th Security Forces Squadron commanding officer. "Security Forces' primary mission is to provide air base ground defense to protect the installation and personnel, as well as, to provide protection from standoff weapons (weapons that shoot more than 6,000 meters), which may pose a threat to the airfield and the aircraft during critical times of flight including takeoffs and landings."

The morale of the six members of the squadron who deployed was high when they left.

"I [was] kind of anxious to get over there," said Senior Airman Luke Bowdre, a M2 .50-caliber machine gunner with the unit who is deploying to Iraq for the first time. "There are a lot of people who have been out there multiple times; hopefully we can give someone else a break."

The unit began pre-deployment ground combat defense training and M2 .50-caliber machine gun training in January at Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The training the squadron received did more than prepare them for their mission.

"As we prepared for the deployment we got a lot closer," said Staff Sergeant Robert Hall, a M2 .50-caliber machine gun team leader. "The unit cohesion is very strong." ■



Business Minded. Bill Rancic, celebrity entrepreneur and season one winner of "The Apprentice," congratulates Master Sergeant Kevin Johnson, Alaska Air National Guard, for being selected as the Alaska state finalist for the Ace Hardware Dream Ace Contest, which awarded one entrepreneur his very own Ace Hardware store valued at \$1 million. Johnson and contestants from more than 40 states were flown to New York City in February to participate in two rounds of the contest. An Oregon man won the contest out of more than 5,400 people from across the country who entered. Photo: Ace Hardware Corp.

Burger Surprise. Sergeant First Class Don Teter is amazed that his 9-year-old granddaughter, Adrianna Montgomery, won Red Robin's "The Next Gourmet Burger Kids Contest" and even more amazed to see her in Alaska. As the grand prize winner, Adrianna's burger was featured in Red Robin restaurants across the Nation May 15 through July 15, the same time Teter was scheduled to be in Iraq for a six-month deployment with Fxxtrot 207th Theater Aviation Company (Fixed Wing), Alaska Army National Guard. So Gourmet Ventures, a franchisee of Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Inc., decided to fly the Montgomerys from Raleigh, N.C., to Anchorage to surprise Teter and give him a sampling of her creation prior to his second deployment to Iraq.

Photo: Specialist Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs



Guardsmen Embed with Afghan National Army

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...

A contingent of Alaska Army National Guard members deployed to Afghanistan for one year to embed with the Afghan National Army in support of efforts to rid the nation of terrorist groups.

The Guard members trained for nearly three months at Fort Riley, Kan.,

before leaving for Afghanistan in early July.

"The Embedded Transition Team will deploy to Afghanistan to work directly with the Afghan National Army in support of tactical operations against insurgent groups in that country," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "This is an important mission in building a strong front with local Afghan forces against radical groups that inhibit freedom."

"We will be fully embedded – training



Desert Ready. Lieutenant Colonel Alison Queair, Alaska Army National Guard, is updating troops across the desert with the latest equipment and gear as part of the new Rapid Fielding Initiatives. She left Alaska in January for a six-month overseas deployment. Photo: Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Alison Queair



Preparing for Iraq. Colonel Mike Bridges, second from right, of the Alaska Army National Guard, performs individual movement techniques training at McGruder Range, N.M./Fort Bliss. Bridges was training in preparation for his year-long deployment in Iraq as a member of one of the 10 new Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Teams. He will be working as a business development specialist with local Iraqi leaders and small business people (or those who want to be) to develop self-sustaining businesses both small and a bit bigger.

Photo: Lieutenant Colonel Mike Hildreth, U.S. Army



Desert Teamwork. A mixed group of Alaska Air National Guardsmen from the 176th Wing and Israeli contractors for the Israeli Air Force work together on a new runway project at an airbase in Israel's Negev Desert. In just seven days, the Israeli-American crew laid over 19 miles of communications conduit. Photo: Master Sergeant Julia Barklow, 176th Communications Flight

Operation Noble Award.

Members of the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Air Refueling Wing work together to recover a KC-135 aircraft after a successful refueling mission in Stavanger, Norway. Unit members recently deployed to Norway in support of Operation Noble Award, a major NATO exercise combining forces from the United States, Great Britain, Germany, Denmark and other NATO countries. Photo: Captain Kelly Mellard, 168th Air Refueling Wing



Operation Iraqi Freedom.

This is the second deployment to Iraq for this unit (formerly recognized as E Company). The unit first deployed to Iraq in February 2005 and spent one year in the desert flying cargo, equipment and people throughout the Iraqi theater in their C-23B Sherpas.

"I'm very proud of the F Company Soldiers for their determination in preparing for a second deployment," said Major Matthew Schell, commander of F Company. "The company has completed another amazing year re-organizing and training. The flight crews, including new crewmembers, are well trained for their mission and for any contingency we might face on the ground."

"Our Soldiers are prepared and ready to continue their contributions to promote freedom and liberty in Iraq," said Major General Craig E. Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "We are honored to have such noble and dedicated Guardsmen representing Alaska and the United States."

The mission for F Company is to support the Iraqi government and Coalition Forces by transporting priority cargo and passengers

to Forward Operation Bases within Iraq. The Sherpa aircraft are able to take small loads and go to some locations where the Air Force transports don't go.

"The loads and distances we will fly in Iraq are much like our flights here in Alaska, but because of the threat in Iraq, we are constantly developing new techniques and procedures to complete each flight safely," Schell said. "I feel lucky to go with such a fantastic group of Soldiers. We've put together such a select group that I've started to think of them as Task Force Sherpa." ■

and living — with the Afghan National Army," said Major Nathan Burnham, commander of the Afghan National Army Embedded Transition Team. "We are looking forward to working with the Afghans to help them build a stronger, united nation."

The Embedded Transition Team consists of 13 Alaska Army National Guard members and one New Hampshire Army National Guard member. ■

Army Guard Aviators Head to Iraq for Second Tour

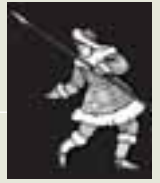
By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... Thirty-six aviators from the Alaska Army National Guard, Foxtrot 207th Theater Aviation Company (Fixed Wing), in April headed to Iraq for six months for their second tour of duty in support of



For the People

Governor Sarah Palin
Commander in Chief



For the Future

Summer gives us great holidays to celebrate our military heritage and our loved ones who serve our country. This summer we have held rallies on the Capitol steps and signed bills into law supporting our troops currently serving and our veterans who have given us the freedom we cherish today.

House Bill 210 ensures that in the future, the Alaska National Guard has an adjutant general who has walked in your footsteps. I believe for an organization to be successful, leadership must understand where it has been to guide it to future success. Having an adjutant general with at least five years of experience in the Alaska National Guard will allow you to be led by someone who has an intimate understanding of your needs

and who knows how to position the Guard for future relevance.

Senate Bill 49 takes care of our veterans. The bill recognizes that veterans have paid their dues with great sacrifices, and we will help honor them with license plates at no additional charge. All honored veterans now have extended benefits from the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Veterans Affairs.

There have been accomplishments beyond the halls of the Capitol as well. The Alaska Shield/Northern Edge exercise proved we have the capability to protect ourselves from terrorist activity at home, and when we need additional help, we have the relationships built to get supplemental resources here quickly.

The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management did such an amazing job planning and executing this exercise that we have the experience needed to better protect the state in the future.

With these actions, it is no wonder two teams from the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs have received the Governor's Peak Performance Award for outstanding customer service. Twenty-four state employees won the award, the first year it was given, for their performance helping Alaskans through disasters like the Hooper Bay fire. You have an outstanding department, and I'm very proud of all of your efforts at home and abroad. ■



Silver Star. On the steps of the Alaska Capitol, Governor Sarah Palin honors the state's veterans in proclaiming May 1st as Silver Star Day – a day to honor the nation's wounded members of the armed forces from all wars. Many families with loved ones serving in the military hang the Blue Star banner in a prominent place. If that loved one dies while serving, the Blue Star becomes a Gold Star. To this point, there has not been a banner to indicate when a service member is injured while serving. The Silver Star Families of America initiated the idea to recognize the nation's heroes by the presentation of Silver Star banners, certificates and letters to our wounded or their families. Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sarah Palin



My Turn

Major General Craig E. Campbell
Adjutant General, Alaska National Guard
& Commissioner, Alaska Department
of Military & Veterans Affairs



Success Achieved

This has been a great spring and summer season! We have achieved success with the Legislature, worked with Governor Sarah Palin to increase support for our veterans and welcomed home some of our troops from Afghanistan.

For the last year, the Headquarters and Headquarters Companies of the 207th Infantry Brigade and the 297th Support Battalion were in Kandahar, Afghanistan, leading NATO forces in the southern region. Just after Memorial Day, these Soldiers returned home and were thanked and welcomed back by two of our finest leaders: Lieutenant General H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Governor Palin. Our Guard Soldiers worked to make Afghanistan a better, safer community by building infrastructure and opportunity while deployed there.

As you transition back into your Alaskan community, I encourage you to take the skills you learned overseas and apply them to your neighborhood to make it a better place for your family. Your leadership skills are second to none, and you are a role model to those young people around you.

Alaskans are renowned for supporting military members, and this summer has been no exception. The Adjutants General Association of the United States held its summer meeting in Anchorage with great success. We discussed a range of issues from policy concerns with the changes to the Insurrection Act to equipment shortfalls and changes in the mobilization policy. We also talked about the impact of force structure changes in the Air Guard and reset schedules for Army Guard units.

Summer in Alaska gives us the abundance of the land: great fishing, hunting and endless outdoor activities. Enjoy this time of year and remember the importance of your contribution to the Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. You are working to protect the people of this great state. ■



We Are Family ... Supporting the Alaska National Guard. Alaska Quality Publishing, Inc., donated \$10,000 to the Alaska National Guard Family Programs for the four families of fallen Guard members: First Lieutenant Jaime Campbell, Chief Warrant Officer Four Chester Troxel, Specialist Michael Edwards and Specialist Jacob Melson. The four aviators died when their Black Hawk crashed in Iraq in January 2006. The advertising proceeds and donated commissions from the commemorative issue honoring the fallen Guard members made this large donation possible. Pictured from left: Clem Mewmaw, AQP sales; David Gates, AQP sales vice president; Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard and commissioner of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs; Bob Ulin, AQP president; Carl Kingsman, AQP sales; and Dan King, AQP sales. They stand proudly with the \$10,000 check for the families, showing AQP's continued support of the Alaska National Guard. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

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**See page 23 for the Silver and
Humpy sponsors.**



Veterans

GI BILL: IT'S NOT JUST FOR COLLEGE

Education benefits available for on-the-job training and apprenticeship

The majority of veterans and others receiving GI Bill benefits do so at institutions of higher learning – those schools that offer associate degrees and higher. It is often overlooked, but these benefits can also be used while a veteran is earning a wage in an on-the-job training program.

Veterans must first establish GI Bill benefit eligibility by completing the VA Form 22-1990 Application for Educational Benefits and submitting it to the Regional Processing Office in their region. After entitlement is established, a visit with the State Approving Agency is scheduled with the employer.

State Approving Agencies are responsible for approving educational facilities and programs for those utilizing their GI Bill Benefits. Once the State Approving Agency has reviewed and approved a program, a veteran can start receiving benefits. Many businesses and organizations already have approved programs; however, those that do not are required to complete a simple application process.

Not only do veterans benefit from receiving their GI Bill while learning a skill and earning a wage, employers are able to use their approval as a recruiting tool. Companies are able to attract

Memorial Day Dedication. Members of the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard carry the colors to start the Memorial Day ceremony held at Delaney Park in downtown Anchorage. Americans officially proclaimed Memorial Day, originally called Decorations Day, in May 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War Soldiers. This day has been set aside for us to honor those who have fallen in service to their country.

Photo: Sergeant First Class Ken Denny, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Honoring Sacrifice.

Governor Sarah Palin thanks Captain Wayne Mitchell, a member of 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, for his sacrifices and the sacrifices of his family, following an event proclaiming May 1st as Silver Star Day – a day to honor the nation's wounded veterans from all wars.

Photo: Courtesy of the Office of Governor Sarah Palin

and retain mature and disciplined employees.

A veteran qualifying under Chapters 30, 32, 1606, 1607, or previous GI Bills Chapters 34 and 35, may be eligible to receive benefits while employed in an approved occupation. Those that were in the service would have had to choose to be vested in the program through a \$100 a month contribution. For those in the Guard or Reserves, a six-year period of obligation will provide eligibility for training benefits for OJT, apprenticeship or traditional college.

A summary of the various benefit chapters is as follows:

- Chapter 30 applies to those who entered active duty after July 1985 and contributed the GI Bill.
- Chapter 32 applies to veterans who entered active duty between Jan. 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985, and contributed towards the Veterans Education Assistance Program.
- Chapter 1606 applies to members of the National Guard or Reserves with a 6-year period of obligation after Oct. 1, 1990. Veterans should contact their units for eligibility.
- Chapter 34 applies to veterans who entered active duty between Feb. 1, 1955, and Dec. 31, 1976. Veterans in this category may be eligible for benefits under Chapter 30.
- Chapter 35 applies to a spouse or child of a service member who died or is a 100-percent permanently disabled veteran.
- Chapter 1607 applies to veterans eligible for Reserve Education Assistance Program.

There are myriad occupations for veterans to receive GI Bill benefits while learning an occupation. Nearly any occupation that requires a minimum of six months training and leads to a career is eligible for approval as long as regulatory requirements are satisfied and the employer is willing to participate. The State Approving Agency in Alaska will work with a veteran and employer to establish the program eligibility.

To learn more about on-the-job-training and apprenticeship opportunities, contact the Alaska State Approving Agency at: (907) 428-6513 or mercedes.angerman@alaska.gov.

To contact the Regional Processing Office to determine GI Bill Benefit eligibility, contact the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Processing Office at (888) 442-4551 or www.gibill.va.gov. ■

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

ASISTing a Friend

By Second Lieutenant Jessie Janes, 2nd Battalion, 297th Infantry

Most people have known someone who has had serious thoughts about suicide or even acted upon suicidal thoughts. Many people, including myself, can have a hard time dealing with death when confronted with it so abruptly.

Thinking back on the ASIST class, I can't help but remember the most important topic that they addressed. Most of all, you have to care for the life of the person you are attempting to help.

When I was in high school, a good friend of mine was having a problem fitting in. He was fixated on all the happy, outgoing, popular people in school and had the idea that since he wasn't like them, he was alone. The fact that his mother had serious psychological issues also affected him greatly. When he told me that he was thinking about suicide, the only thing I could think of was how to save my friend. I cared and that made all the difference.

After attending the class I was able to reflect on that situation in the past. Had I known some of the techniques discussed, I may have been able to address the problem more directly. The steps taught, particularly the emphasis on what you have to live for, would have been very helpful.

Before attending the class, I had the same view on suicide that I do now, that it is a cry for help and should always be avoided. I don't know, on the other hand, how I would have handled a situation with someone that I didn't know as well as my friend. I truly do believe that this training has given me the knowledge I need to assist someone in overcoming thoughts of suicide and directing them to a professional or mentor for help. ■



ASIST

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

By Chaplain Gilbert Campbell, Alaska National Guard State Chaplain

The Alaska Vital Statistic relates that suicide in Alaska is twice the national average. Rural Alaska suffers four times the national average. In the National Guard, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

The military utilizes the chaplain-led program called the ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). The ASIST workshop is for leaders (caregivers) who want to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. It equips people to respond knowledgeably and competently to people at risk of suicide.

This workshop is a skill-based, two-day, highly-interactive, practice-oriented workshop. The material is current, well researched and the workshop is professionally conducted for our troops.

Those participating in a suicide intervention skills workshop leave feeling willing, ready and able to intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Thus, it has been suggested by many participants that this program, the ASIST, should be mandatory for all Alaska National Guard members.

For questions about ASIST and training opportunities contact me, the State Chaplain, Gilbert Campbell, at (907) 428-6904 or e-mail me at: gilbert.campbell@us.army.mil.

ASIST Training Schedule

Juneau Sept. 24-25

Bethel Nov. 5-6



Alaska Shield/Northern Edge '07 A Success

By John Madden, Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Director

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... In May 2007, Alaska conducted the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 2007 exercise, the largest, most complex homeland security exercise in the nation. Alaskans representing government agencies and the private sector proved we can take care of ourselves when faced with terrorist threats.

Faced with a scenario of a credible terrorist threats against the energy infrastructure – production fields, pipelines, refineries, bridges, rail transport and storage – the state of Alaska executed its plan for defense of these critical facilities. The plan was developed in partnership with 38 federal, state, local and private organizations.

The innovative plan ensures that after a threat is identified, the immediate hours are spent on action and not discussion. Also, the plan assumes that the only forces available are those already inside the state and that already have the authority and resources to act decisively.

The state and its partners demonstrated the ability to deploy law enforcement officers, the National Guard and the Alaska

State Defense Force to critical sites. They showed the ability to establish command and communications, report the situation to the unified commands and overwhelm any real or potential threats.

In addition to these threats on land, Coast Guard and Naval forces formed a joint task force to locate and board ships in the Gulf of Alaska that were carrying information essential to simulated plots on land. These boardings showed the successful



Exercise Evacuation. Members from the Alaska-1 Disaster Medical Assistance Team and Soldiers from Fort Wainwright help load "patients" onto an Alaska Air National Guard C-130 Hercules for a medivac transport exercise, as part of Alaska Shield/Northern Edge, to McChord Air Force Base outside of Seattle, Wash. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

Calling in the Guard. Technical Sergeant Aaron Decker and Specialist Lucas Revaul of the 101st Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), Idaho National Guard perform a radiological scan as part of the kick-off event of the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge training exercise.

Photo: Specialist Frank O'Brien, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Rapid Response Team



cooperation and working relationship between military and civilian law enforcement, as well as state and local law enforcement agencies.

To add to the challenge of preventing any terrorist attacks, the exercise included two mass casualty drills in Fairbanks and North Pole. Besides the expected complexity of treating and moving patients, the responders performed within a crime scene and under protection against further attacks.

During the exercise, the state tested its ability to raise and implement homeland security threat levels and to quickly mobilize all state forces to protect the people and the economy of Alaska.

The state articulated potential missions to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, our close and valued partner in consequence management. FEMA turned to its federal partners to plan and execute these missions defined by the state. The system worked and the public was well served. ■

Civil Support Teams Help Kick Off Exercise

By Specialist Frank O'Brien, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Rapid Response Team

CORDOVA, Alaska ... Soldiers and Airmen from the 103rd Civil Support Team of the Alaska National Guard and the 101st Civil Support Team of the Idaho National Guard assisted Cordova police and firefighters in a homeland defense training simulation that kicked off the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge training exercise May 7.

Using a Colorado Air National Guard airplane as a prop, Cordova police officers and firemen along with Alaska State Troopers swarmed over the Cordova airport to apprehend suspected drug smugglers played by other members of the Alaska and Idaho National Guards. Upon discovery of a suspicious package, Ron Bishop, City of Cordova police chief, called in the National Guard.

The Civil Support Team mission is to assess hazards, advise civil authorities, and facilitate military support during emergencies and incidents of suspected weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the CST advises civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, which was at the heart of the Cordova exercise's training.

The National Guard is the first military responder in all domestic emergencies. It has an extensive history of supporting civilian authorities and protecting the communities of our country. The National Guard is prepared with highly-trained professionals and state-of-the-art equipment to respond and support incident commanders in any crisis.

Exercises like this provide an excellent opportunity for civilian and other government agencies to train with the National Guard to review processes and techniques and build relationships. It is part of an on-going cycle of training that prepares people to face the myriad of challenges of the post-Sept. 11 world. ■

Simulated Take Down. Chris Farmer, a Cordova police officer, subdues Captain Brad Christopher, Idaho National Guard's 101st Civil Support Team, in the kick-off simulation of Alaska Shield/Northern Edge training exercise. Sergeant Paul McConnell, an Alaska State Trooper, keeps his weapon trained on a private jet simulated to contain drug making chemicals. Christopher, as part of the simulation, is playing a drug runner.

Photo: Specialist Frank O'Brien, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Rapid Response Team



Patient Care. Two patient transport staffers from Fairbanks Memorial Hospital wheel away a mock patient from an Alaska Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter during a mass casualty exercise as part of Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.

Photo: Specialist Frank O'Brien, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Rapid Response Team

Simulated Attack Tests Responders

By Sergeant First Class Jack Holt, National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Rapid Response Team

NORTH POLE, Alaska ... A terrorist attack in North Pole, just miles from Santa's House, caused mass casualties that required evacuation by military helicopters and quickly overwhelmed the local hospital.

The simulated attack on the Flint Hills Refinery in North Pole, near the local gift shop "Santa Claus House," involved Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Disaster Medical Assistance teams, the Alaska Army National Guard and the U.S. Air Force as part of Alaska Shield/Northern Edge.

"This was Team Alaska's opportunity to exercise together on an integrated, state-wide scale," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

The attack on the pipeline was just one in a series of scenarios during the exercise. It followed a simulated train derailment, a gunfire exchange with police on a bridge over a suspicious package, and a suspicious private airplane detainment and investigation.

Team Alaska's goal is to integrate federal, state, local, tribal, non-governmental organizations and private-sector efforts to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies occurring in Alaska.

"This exercise provided us all the opportunity to work together in concerted response for any unforeseen emergency for the benefit of all our residents," said Douglas Isaacson, mayor of North Pole.

Alaska Shield/Northern Edge is unique – states normally only get an opportunity to practice their integrated responses to emergencies with their national partners every seven to 10 years. Alaska is the only state where an exercise of this type and magnitude is planned bi-annually, and as a result, has been listed as an exercise of "national relevance" by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. ■

Adjutants General Association of the United States

2007 Spring Conference



Downtown Anchorage, Alaska



"This was the best conference in recent memory for all of us who attended. My office is continuing to receive thank you notes from visitors who joined us from across the country. I want to share a special thank you to all of the volunteers for a job well done!"

— Major General Craig E. Campbell, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard



Photo: Captain Dwayne Wirfel, 134th Public Affairs Detachment



Photo: First Lieutenant Amy Bombassaro, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs



Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs



Photo: Captain Guy Hayes, DMVA Public Affairs

New Alaska Army National Guard Commander



Change of Command. Major General Craig Campbell, left, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard, stands at attention while Brigadier General Craig Christensen, center, and Brigadier General Thomas Katkus salute the Alaska Army National Guard troops during their change of command ceremony. Katkus took over command of the Alaska Army National Guard from Christensen, while Christensen will take over as the assistant adjutant general for the Alaska Army National Guard Space and Missile Defense Command. Photo: Sergeant Laura Griffin, 134th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ... More than 1,900 Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers across the state have a new commander to help ready them for duty wherever it may take them.

Brigadier General Thomas Katkus has been appointed as the new leader of the Alaska Army National Guard.

"I'm excited about being in a position where I can work with folks that I've known and trusted for a long time," Katkus said. "There will be a lot of changes to the organization as we transform into a battlefield surveillance brigade and we take on more and more responsibilities in the Global War on Terrorism and our state responsibilities."

Katkus, the former assistant adjutant general for Space and Missile Defense, takes over for Brigadier General Craig Christensen, as the commander of the Alaska Army National Guard. Katkus was commissioned with the Alaska Army National Guard in 1980 and had been the assistant adjutant general for Space and Missile Defense since January 2004.

"Brigadier General Katkus has been instrumental in undertaking the start-up of our missile defense mission at Fort Greely and is a proven leader with a tremendous amount of experience and expertise in guiding our Army Guard troops in a successful direction," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard.

Christensen is now the assistant adjutant general for Space and Missile Defense. He enlisted in the Alaska Army National Guard in 1972 and has been a commissioned officer since 1977.

"We appreciate the service and dedication that Brigadier General Christensen has given to the Alaska Army National Guard," Campbell said. "Throughout the past four years, his professionalism and dedication to service led the transformation of the Alaska Army National Guard from a peacetime, in-state organization to a world class war-fighting organization that has achieved exceptional milestones." ■

Brigadier General Tony Hart Assumes Command

By Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP DENALI, Alaska ...

There is a new leader at the helm to help train, equip and organize the Alaska Air National Guard.

Brigadier General Tony Hart took over for Brigadier General Timothy Scott, who retired in March and served more than 26 years in the Alaska Air National Guard, four of them as the commander.

"Brigadier General Hart will provide mission ready forces to the U.S. Air Force in times of national crises and international conflict, as well as to Governor Sarah Palin for use in times of state emergencies or disasters," said Major General Craig Campbell, adjutant general of the Alaska National Guard. "I am confident in his leadership and look forward to building and strengthening our Alaska Air National Guard together."

Hart is also the commander of the 176th Wing at Kulis Air National Guard Base, which is home to roughly 1,500 Airmen. He's had the position since January 2005 when he came to Alaska from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., where he served as the Air National Guard advisor to the Commander Headquarters Air Mobility Command.

The Alaska Air National Guard is comprised of the 176th Wing and the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson Air Force

Base. The Air Guard is responsible for missions in Alaska and around the world that involve passenger and cargo airlift requirements, refueling operations and rescue missions. ■



Publish the Order. Major General Craig E. Campbell, Brigadier General Tony A. Hart and Chief Master Sergeant Timothy Tillman stand at attention as the order appointing Hart as the new commander of the Alaska Air National Guard is being read. This reading, known as "publishing the order," is a common tradition in military ceremonies.

Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs



Passing the Flag. Brigadier General Tony A. Hart receives the flag of the Alaska Air National Guard from Major General Craig E. Campbell. The tradition of passing of the unit's flag symbolizes the new command being entrusted to Hart and is a public demonstration of the authority of the new commander. Photo: Staff Sergeant Eric Hamilton, DMVA Public Affairs

Homeland Security & Emergency Management



RIVER WATCH

By Renee Nelson, DHS&EM Public Affairs

In 2007, Alaska experienced a river break-up normally seen only about once every 10 years, according to the National Weather Service – “thermal break-up.”

Thermal break-up, as opposed to a “hydraulic break-up,” allows river ice to deteriorate in place. The water can then flow through and around the ice, reducing the incidence of flooding from ice jams. The combination of low snow pack and higher temperatures throughout the Interior kept the state safe from disastrous ice jam flooding.

Each year, the State of Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center separately fund a joint program to provide advance and emergency notification of imminent snowmelt and ice jam flooding to 76 Alaska villages, boroughs and tribal councils. This program is known as *River Watch*.

“Even though winter weather conditions predicted a low probability of flooding along the Interior rivers, there were concerns that needed to be checked out,” said George Coyle, DHS&EM Emergency Management specialist. “Sometimes you still need field truth to confirm conditions.”

The program is targeted to reduce the impact to communities from ice jam flooding, inform communities of known or expected threats, provide them with ways to protect themselves and proactively address potential significant flooding in major river systems, which is not new to Alaska.

“The information is also translated into Yupik, normally from the aircraft after or during the assessment of river conditions,” said Kerry Seifert, DHS&EM Emergency Management specialist. “The communities rely on our information to know what their level of concern should be.”

Since 1978, severe flooding caused by ice jams resulting in state and/or federal disaster assistance has occurred 39 times with tens of millions of dollars spent. Of the 212 declared events since 1978, flooding caused by ice jams or spring break-up has occurred 39 times, 18.4 percent of the total.

“The River Watch program is vital to the communities because National Weather Service monitoring stations are limited in the rural areas,” Coyle said. “The only way to assess the risk for the rural communities is by flying over the areas.”

In early March, the Response Section of DHS&EM prepared the annual Spring Flood Breakup Guide. Information about the

guide was mailed to river communities across the state in mid-April and posted on the division Web site at www.ak-prepared.com.

“We also coordinated with local school districts to advise them of the guide and encourage their students to take an active role in community flood preparations,” Coyle said. “Citizen preparedness is critical in all types of disasters.”

As of the end of May, the Response Section and the NWS continued to monitor the breakup of the rivers in northwestern Alaska, including the Buckland and Kobuk rivers, through Web cam, local and pilot reports and satellite photos. ■

Condensed timeline of River Watch activities during Spring 2007

APRIL	
11	The River Watch Team analyzed the current snow pack conditions and spring flood potential statewide.
25	The River Watch Team used reports from local pilots and NWS river observers to update the deployment schedule and to establish better “trigger dates” for the Yukon and Kuskokwim River Watch teams.
MAY	
1	The Kuskokwim River Team deployed to Aniak for river assessments.
2	The Kuskokwim River Team redeployed to Bethel to monitor the lower river stretches.
4	The Upper Yukon River team deployed to Eagle and flew along that river down to Fort Yukon.
5	The Upper Yukon River Team redeployed to Central and monitored the river from Circle down to the Yukon River Bridge.
17	The Lower Yukon River Team deployed to St. Mary’s to monitor the river from Pilot Station down to the Yukon Delta Area.

River Ice. Elsie Simeon, city administrator of Aniak, stands on top of the levee along the Kuskokwim River. Photo: George Coyle, DHS&EM

Afghanistan Deployment a Success



Community Support. Colonel Stephen Williams, commander of the 207th Infantry Brigade, shakes hands with a local Afghanistan leader who accepted the keys to the 64th tractor distributed as part of Task Force Grizzly's farm implement donation project that supports farmers in the local area. Photo: Captain Vanessa R. Bowman, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

By Sergeant LeeAnn Lloyd, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan ...

When Soldiers of the headquarters elements of the 207th Infantry Brigade and the 297th Support Battalion departed the lush coolness of Alaska on Memorial Day 2006, they had no idea what memories they would make during their tour in Afghanistan.

Humanitarian assistance projects, security missions and supporting Coalition elements were in store for the troops. Here is a look at how Task Force Grizzly and Task Force Denali showed the warm heart of Alaskan compassion by helping rebuild a war-torn country.

The Lay of the Land

When Alaska Soldiers arrived to the harsh desert terrain of Afghanistan, they undertook a wide range of responsibility in a multinational environment.

According to Major Jeff Roach, 207th Brigade operations officer, the estimated 140 troops deployed from Alaska served as the U.S. National Command Element, the U.S. National Support Element, and the command and control of Kandahar Air Field. On top of all this, they still had a responsibility to employ 21 personnel within the Regional Command (South) Headquarters.

"We only had the capability of a very small force headquarters to run the base, run the force protection outside the base, keep the rocket attacks reduced, support forces out at the remote forward operating bases and still conduct combat operations ... so, it was like a thin shoestring that we were conducting operations off of, but we did it and were successful," said Colonel Stephen Williams, 207th Brigade and TF Grizzly commander.

Making a Difference

TF Grizzly allocated nearly \$4.5 million worth of U.S. Commander's Emergency Relief Program funds to improve the quality of life for Afghans in the region through reconstruction. Projects included the repair, construction and stocking of schools, orphanages, mosques, and medical and safety facilities.

Agriculture was improved with the digging of more than 32 water wells, and the donation of more than 64 tractors for farming. Some projects, such as the cleaning of more than 200 kilometers of canals for irrigation water, provided jobs for the locals.

Security

When the unit arrived last year, rocket attacks were occurring at a rate of about 27 each month; now the numbers have reduced to about three per month.

"We have had some significant casualties and damage caused by these rocket attacks," Roach said. "So we instituted a series of operations with force protection elements ... aimed at taking out the leadership of the cell that was operating in the Kandahar area."

Another responsibility under the security umbrella was making sure locals who reside in the villages surrounding KAF felt safe. Many *shuras* (meetings with village elders and local government officials) were held to discuss security in the region.

Blending In. A Task Force Grizzly Soldier conducts a patrol in the Daman District as part of a local leader engagement. Photo: Captain Vanessa R. Bowman, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

“Even for the base, you have to hold *shuras* with the villagers outside the wire,” Williams said. “If the leadership is not engaging with the locals then the problems are bound to arise. As we held *shuras* and engagements with the key leaders in our battlespace, we reduced the rocket attacks.”

Operation Medusa

Without hesitation, Williams said his favorite mission was Operation Medusa, a 22-day operation for which his Soldiers had six hours notice to prepare.

“NATO had just taken over operations in RC (South),” Williams recalled. “It was the first NATO fight as an operation force in theater.

“[Previous Coalition troops] couldn’t cross the river because there were just too many Taliban in the area, so they came to us to develop our task force ... to fence the enemy in,” Williams said.

“With six hours notice we produced the order and rolled our task force out there. We had a convoy that was about 50 vehicles, and we moved in and secured Panjwayi and one side of the ridge. We were able to keep the Taliban fixed for a few days.”

Williams said they saw a hole and knew this was their opportunity to cross the dangerous river.

“We crossed under fire, used smoke, CAS (Close Air Support), and engaged in direct enemy fire,” Williams recalled. “But we got the guys across, seized the area, and the next day took an objective that nobody else could take.”

International Support

Many operations conducted by TF Grizzly wouldn’t have been possible without the help of support elements like TF Denali, who conducted several combat logistics patrols to get much needed equipment to the troops.

TF Denali directly orchestrated and carried out plans to reconstitute troops returning from the field – a process which includes the maintenance of equipment and personnel recovery. Reconstitutions are a vital part of ensuring Soldiers are ready to go back out to the field and are able to perform missions with the best equipment the Army has to offer.

Also of great assistance were the Afghan National Border Police (ANBP) and Afghan National Army, who worked closely with TF Grizzly on many operations.

Mission Accomplished

Williams hopes the impression left by his task force will be longstanding and that Coalition counterparts will think of the progress made during his time in command as enduring.

“Hopefully they will say that we defended the base well and that we improved force protection within the base and implemented the right standards,” Williams said. ■



Making a Difference. Private First Class Lydia Edwards, supply clerk with the 207th Infantry Brigade, Alaska National Guard, meets with an English instructor, Sakina Sekanader, during her second visit to the Albirani Institute of Information Technology, where the U.S. National Command Element made a donation to assist the school.

Photo: Sergeant Mayra Kennedy, 345th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Driving in the Desert. Sergeant Barbara Waggoner, of Task Force Denali, gets out of a Palletized Loading System that she was driving to deliver supplies and water. The Palletized Loading System is a 16.5-ton vehicle that operates in the tactical environment to support modernized and highly mobile combat units.

Photo: Major Kelly Nichols, Alaska Army National Guard

Desert Streets. Task Force Grizzly conducts a key leader engagement in the Daman district of Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Photo: Captain Vanessa R. Bowman, 22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment





Education

Former Alaska Military Youth Academy Cadet Graduates from U.S. Naval Academy

By Specialist Karima Turner, DMVA Public Affairs

CAMP CARROLL, Alaska ... This year, of the 1,028 graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., one of those has the proud history of also being an Alaska Military Youth Academy graduate.

Clint DesJarlais became the first AMYA graduate to also graduate from a U.S. service academy. He collected his diploma on May 25, along with his younger brother, Levi, whom he helped join the Naval Academy.

"I feel like because of the Alaska Military Youth Academy I was able to help my family succeed and do great things," DesJarlais said. "It's so important to me that my brother was able to attend the Naval Academy with me."

The 25-year-old Anchorage native had a rough start, leaving a troubled home as a young teen. DesJarlais realized that he needed structure and outside help if he would ever become successful.

"The only way I was ever going to make it was to get away from the challenges at home and get into a good environment that would help me go to school and make a difference," he said. "The Alaska Military Youth Academy helped me to do that, and it instilled in me the desire to become a leader."

He enrolled in the AMYA in 1999, when he was 16 years old. One of his most vivid memories of being at the AMYA was watching the F-15 fighter pilots fly over during a training day. That's when DesJarlais said his dream to go to college and be a fighter pilot was born.

"Right after graduation I told my dad that ... I wanted to attend a service academy and be a pilot," DesJarlais said. "When I told him that, he had tears in his eyes because he knew then that I would accomplish whatever I set my heart to."

Holding onto his dream and knowing he needed a diploma and a college education he went back to high school; he graduated from Colony High School in 2000.

DesJarlais didn't have the grades to be directly admitted to a service academy, so instead he enlisted in the Marine Corps for three years. DesJarlais said he was inspired to join the Marines by a Marine cadre member at AMYA. Staying motivated and keeping focused, he continued to fulfill his duties as a Marine and also enrolled in college classes.

"I decided that being an enlisted firefighter in the Marine Corps would be the best way to serve my country," DesJarlais said. "I thought enlisting and attending college part-time would be most fruitful to continue to strive to accomplish my dream."

"We tell the kids at the academy, 'You can go anywhere from here,'" said James Jones, AMYA principal. "Clint is an example of that. He kept pushing himself and pushing himself. He had to work at everything."

"I'm really proud of what he's doing and the example that he's set. It gives him a platform for talking to other students on setting and achieving goals. I look forward to the difference he'll make in a generation." ■



The Bond of Brothers. Levi DesJarlais, right, and Clint DesJarlais, brothers and fellow graduates, show off their newly earned diplomas from the U.S. Naval Academy. Both graduated from the Academy on May 25. Photo: Courtesy of Clint DesJarlais

Beginning June 1, you can apply to use the State of Alaska Air National Guard and Naval Militia education benefits for fall 2007 classes at University of Alaska schools.

This program will pay for up to 12 undergraduate semester hours, including mandatory fees, provided that the student is a Guard or Naval Militia member in good standing both at school and with the unit. Students who have unresolved incompletes, withdrawals or failing grades from spring 2007 will not be considered.

Deadline for final submission is August 15, with exceptions made on a case-by-case basis.

To apply for tuition assistance, contact your unit's POC:

- 176th Wing (Kulis): Master Sergeant Tracy Glaze, 249-1371, tracy.glaze@akanch.af.mil
- 168th Wing (Eielson): Master Sergeant Rebecca Donovan, 377-8748, rebecca.donovan@akeiel.af.mil
- Naval Militia: Second Lieutenant Les Poletzky, 428-6477, les.poletzky@us.army.mil

Assistance is also available at the DMVA State Education Assistance Web site (<http://www.guardedu.alaska.gov>) or Army Guard members can apply for benefits at <http://www.virtualarmory.com>.

Air National Guardsmen Team up with Israeli Air Force

By Captain Becky King, 176th Wing, Alaska Air National Guard

NEGEV DESERT, Israel ... “Coffee-Coffee!” Penny yelled as he started to boil water on a Sterno stove in the driver’s cab of a front end loader. A few minutes later the brew was done and the familiar call of “Coffee-Coffee!” brought American troops and Israeli contractors over for a much-needed break.

The Alaska Air National Guard under the leadership of Major Ed Soto, deployed commander, were the American troops who got the unusual opportunity to spend their two-weeks of annual training on an Israeli Air Force (IAF) base in Israel’s Negev Desert. The 50 members of the Anchorage-based 176th Civil Engineer Squadron were quick to volunteer for the coveted rotation to complete several exercise-related construction projects.

“The unique thing about this deployment is that we have five different projects going simultaneously,” said Captain Stephanie Kerrigan, project officer for the 176th Civil Engineer Squadron. “With so many different projects, almost every person had, at some level, been able to do work specific to his or her area of expertise. It’s great for skill-set training.

“It’s also great training for managers because of the complexity of the projects and limiting factors. We’re learning how to respond and react in a dynamic environment while still getting the job done.”

Working with limited equipment, supplies, communications, and transportation resources added to the project’s complexity and closely simulates conditions of a war-time environment.

Building for Desert Shade. Captain Stephanie Kerrigan and Master Sergeant Jun Galvez, operations manager, help prepare for the foundation for a sun shade, a dome to shelter Israeli Air Force F-16s from the desert heat.

Photo: Master Sergeant Julia Barklow, 176th Communications Flight



Encountering incompatible materials and supplies forces the engineers to improvise.

“This is a way for both groups to work together and work with a lot of different equipment and materials,” said Meier Gur, project liaison for the Israeli Air Force who has been with the project since its inception and hopes it continues far into the future. “It’s a great benefit for both [Israeli and American troops].”

In addition to working on U.S.-specific construction projects, the Guardsmen had the chance to work in a joint environment. Several 176th electrical and power production craftsmen provided exothermic welding training to Israeli airmen. This unique form of welding is critical to some of the IAF’s newest projects.

By week’s end, this new technology had been adopted by the IAF for specific construction applications. Thanks to this exchange, the newly trained Israeli airmen can now meet the same construction standards used by U.S. airmen.

Additionally, one of the IAF’s highly visible runway construction projects had recently fallen behind. Since they were ahead of schedule on most projects, the Alaska Air Guard was able to assist an Israeli crew. In just seven days, the Israeli-American crew laid over 19 miles of communications conduit. This effort put the runway project back on schedule and had no affect on the U.S.-specific projects, which the Guard still finished ahead of schedule.

Gur said this is one of the reasons he enjoys working with Guardsmen. “They work more seriously than most of the people I know. You give them a mission and they’ll do it; they’re very good people,” he said.

This mission focus is what brought the Guard to this project in the first place. In 1996, when the exercise-related construction requirements were first identified, U.S. Air Forces in Europe tasked the Guard’s 235th Civil Engineer Flight to do the design work. Recognizing the unique training opportunities at the site, the Guard readily agreed to provide troop labor as well.

The results of these initial decisions seem to speak for themselves. The designs have been highly praised and are, in some cases, considered to be the authority in work in Israel. And the labor opportunities seem unparalleled.

Kerrigan explained the reasons. “The fact that the Guard continues to come back year after year shows that this has been the most successful deployment for training program. We hope every unit gets this opportunity.”

Who knows which unit will be here next year. For now though, the Alaska Guardsmen will relish in their accomplishments, teamwork and cultural exchanges. Perhaps they’ll reflect on these experiences over a nice cup of coffee. ■

Brick by Brick. Staff Sergeant Theodore Dooley, a heavy equipment operator with the 176th Wing, carefully lays the brick on the top of the Blast Wall of the Munitions Maintenance Facility.

Photo: Master Sergeant Julia Barklow, 176th Communications Flight

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Military Mom and Sergeant Major Take Action

Story and photos by Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait ...

Although Command Sergeant Major Alan Feaster doesn't remember how he first learned about Karen Buckley and her support program, he does remember first talking to her at Camp Shelby, Miss., last July during the train-up for deployment. Buckley recently established a foundation, Military Mom in Action, to support Soldiers with care packages, and she wanted to support Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry during their deployment to Kuwait.

Feaster was happy for the support, but once he reached Kuwait things began taking a slightly different turn. Buckley told Feaster she was receiving a ton of school supplies and toys from donors and asked for his support in finding a way to distribute them. To meet her request, Feaster began developing a distribution network that included an engineering unit in Iraq, a chaplain in Afghanistan and a Kuwaiti sergeant major.

"I thought this was a good opportunity for American Soldiers to show that we are not just authority figures but have another side, an American generosity side," Feaster said.

The school supplies and toys also provide opportunities for Soldiers to interact with the cultures of their host countries, Feaster said. Accordingly, he paid a visit to a Kuwaiti institution for physically and mentally disabled children and young adults in Kuwait City to distribute school supplies and toys. Feaster was accompanied by Sergeant Major Sahib, a member



Giving Back to Kuwait. Command Sergeant Major Alan Feaster shakes hands with a young lady at an institution for the disabled in Kuwait City. Feaster is with the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard and was distributing school supplies and toys donated by Americans. Feaster said that in addition to showing American generosity, the program provides an opportunity for his battalion to interact with the people of Kuwait.

of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, who served as a guide and translator.

"It's a nice facility, very well run and definitely different from an American one," Feaster said. "There's a lot more individual attention, one staff member for every individual in there."

The facility includes a school for mildly disabled students who are capable of holding jobs with government or private agencies. There is also an emphasis on arts and crafts where patients can produce items that can be sold to the public.

"The goal is to prepare them to be part of the community," Sahib said.

"Everything is free and children from foreign families can come here too," said Khalid Ali Al-Mahdi, the director of the Department of Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs.

Feaster said he will continue to develop the program finding more Soldiers to help distribute the toys and school supplies.

"It's good for the kids and good for us," he said. ■



Battalion Colors Change Hands. With the battalion colors firmly in hand, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Osborn, left, takes charge of the 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Command Sergeant Major Alan Feaster, who is responsible for the colors, accepts the flag from his new commander. Osborn lives in Girdwood, Alaska.

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Family Support

NOT JUST ANOTHER FISH CAMP ... 4-H SUMMER CAMP IN BETHEL!

Story and photos by Joan Boltz, Alaska National Guard Child and Youth Coordinator

During a nice May weekend, youth from Toksook, Tuntutuliak, Alakanuk and Scammon Bay joined youth from Bethel for a camp put together specifically for kids of deployed Guard members. The camp, entitled "Be Aware, Get Prepared ... A Taste of 4-H Camp," hosted 18 youth, five youth counselors and several adults from Bethel and beyond.

Primary leaders of the camp were Lee Hecimovich, 4-H agent from the Mat-Su/Copper River District and Marianne Kerr, 4-H agent and youth development agent for the Anchorage area, who wrote the grant that funded the camp.

Everyone gathered with one main goal in mind – FUN! Yes, there were some serious classes and activities, such as self defense with two local State Troopers and emergency preparedness with Lan Hecimovich, a paramedic/firefighter from the Anchorage Fire Department. But even during those classes, there was fun with a purpose interjected.

One of the most popular activities, and a staple of many 4-H Camps, was shooting sports. Many youth in this area have

already been shooting guns for hunting purposes for many years, so their accuracy skills were quite good. Although only pellets are used with the shooting sports, SAFETY is still paramount with 4-H instruction, and all shooters were trained in gun safety before they were allowed to take aim at their targets.

Another class that attracted a great deal of attention was making walking sticks with Janet Athanas, 4-H agent from Bethel and youth center director. The kids stripped the bark of willow sticks, then dried, sanded and sprayed the sticks before customizing them with natural fur, leather lace, beads and feathers to make one-of-a-kind keepsakes from camp.

This is the first year this special Guard youth camp was held in Bethel, but this summer marks the third year that Guard youth have attended camp in Wasilla, an ongoing cooperative effort between 4-H and the Child & Youth Program. The "Taste of Camp" really seemed to resonate with the youth. Several kids and one counselor in particular said, "I wish we could stay longer. This is fun!" ■

*"I wish we could stay longer.
This is fun!"*



Culinary Excitement. Kristie Harrison, center with hat, and kids at the Bethel 4-H Camp get excited about Dutch oven cooking. Harrison is one of the Bethel Family Assistance Center staff members who helped with the camp, which was designed for kids of deployed Guard members.



Camp Fun. Rodney Dock works on his walking stick during a special camp called "Be Aware, Get Prepared ... A Taste of 4-H Camp" for kids of deployed Guard members in Bethel. The session that taught the kids how to make walking sticks from willow sticks was a big hit among campers.



Missile Defense

Media Interest in Missile Defense Grows

Story and photos by Sergeant Jack W. Carlson III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD)

FORT GREELY, Alaska ... Reporters from the Washington, D.C.-based Polish Radio and TV were among several media outlets that have toured the Missile Defense site recently. Together the two Polish media outlets have an audience of 14 million people.

Along with the visit, the reporters had the opportunity to eat lunch with and interview Soldiers of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD). Made up entirely of Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers, the battalion has the dual mission of manning the missile defense system and securing the Missile Defense Complex.

The timing of this visit is significant due to Poland and the Czech Republic deciding on whether or not their countries will agree to host a missile defense capability.

"The intent of this visit was to make sure that the people of Poland had accurate information on the basic look and design of a functional missile defense site," said Polish TV reporter Piotr Krasko.

This visit marked the first time television media had been allowed to film inside the MDC. Since this visit, media outlets representing KTUU-TV in Anchorage, Nightline, BBC World and the Associated Press have visited the missile defense site. Media interest continues to grow with several international, national and local outlets scheduled to visit throughout the summer.

It is important for us to have the Missile Defense story told," said Major Joseph Miley, executive officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. "When you are around such an incredible system all the time, the incredible becomes the ordinary." ■



Media Interest. Chief Warrant Officer Jon Siers, C2 systems integrator of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), reacts to a simulated intercontinental ballistic missile threat during the British Broadcasting Channel's visit to Fort Greely in April. Missile defense crews train regularly on limited ICBM threats to the United States while on the Ground-Base Midcourse Defense Systems Trainer.



Polish TV Interview. Major Joseph Miley, executive officer of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), describes the building behind him, the Defense Satellite Communications System, to Polish television correspondent Piotr Krasko. The DSCS supports the satellite communications within the Ground-Base Midcourse Defense System.



On Point. Sitting at their consoles literally at the "tip of freedom's spear," Bravo Crew, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD), operates the Ground-Base Midcourse Defense portion of the Ballistic Missile Defense System. The system has been manned 24/7 since achieving limited defensive capability September 2004. Located at Fort Greely, the battalion is composed of more than 200 full-time Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers.



Soldotna and Kenai Guard Members Say Thank You

Story and photo by Staff Sergeant Mac Metcalfe, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait ... In the blistering Kuwait desert, 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers from Soldotna and Kenai are often heard bragging in appreciation of their communities. They talk about receiving cards, letters, coffee, Girl Scout cookies, and gifts from civic organizations, churches, businesses, schools and the mayor's office, not to mention individuals.

Their generosity means a lot, said Captain Marty Hanson, former commander of Kenai's Bravo Company, and current member of the Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry.

"The Soldiers here know that people back home care, and they haven't been forgotten. I can't say enough about how important that support is," Hanson said. "The Soldotna Rotary Club, Sweeneys, Troop 281, the Montessori School and GNC immediately come to mind as organizations that have done so much. I wish I could thank everyone individually, but time doesn't allow me to."

"We get things from Mayor Dave Carey every other month," said Sergeant Paul Grimsley. "I am involved in the schools when I am home, and the kids personally write me letters. That's neat."

"Pat Porter, Kenai's mayor, has sent homemade cookies; the Kenai Middle School has sent letters and cards, and the K-Beach Elementary has also sent cards and packages," said Sergeant Albert Burns.

Specialist Ryan Gillis has been impressed by the support he and his wife Brigit have received from community members and his co-workers at Home Depot. "I just want to thank them and all those people out there sending us packages," Gillis said. ■



Appreciation from the Desert. Standing in front of their battalion's wall mural, Soldotna and Kenai Soldiers say thank you to the many community organizations and individuals who have provided support and sent packages to them in Kuwait. The Soldiers are members of the Alaska Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry. Front row, from left: Staff Sergeant David Ahlberg, Sergeant Paul Grimsley, Sergeant Albert Burns, Captain Martin Hanson and Sergeant First Class Paul Kerr. Second row, from left: Private First Class Charles Garrison, Specialist Raymond Mixsooke and Specialist Ryan Gillis.

Local Theaters Show Support of Guard and Reserve



Statements of Support. Zacherly Sheets, district manager for Regal Entertainment Group, looks on as Rob Boynton, general manager of Dimond Center theater; Danielle Campos, associate manager of Fireweed theater and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve; and Monika Liebig-Williams, general manager of Totem theater, sign "5-Star" Statements of Support for the National Guard and Reserve. Photo: Kalei Brooks, DMVA Public Affairs

ANCHORAGE, Alaska ... General managers representing Fireweed, Totem and Dimond Center theaters signed a "5-Star" Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve in May.

"Today supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the nation's National Guard and Reserve units," said Michael Machulsky, state chairman of the Alaska Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. "By signing the '5-Star' Statement of Support, these general managers are sending a clear message to the employees of their theaters that while they are serving their country they do not have to worry about their civilian jobs."

The "5-Star" Statement of Support confirms that Regal Entertainment Group:

- Signed a Statement of Support publicly demonstrating its support for its employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.
- Reviewed its Human Resources policies to ensure compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Promotes training for managers and supervisors to effectively manage its employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.
- Adopted policies and programs that are "Above and Beyond" what is required by the USERRA Law.
- Is an advocate for employee service in the National Guard and Reserve and will help to promote the mission of ESGR. ■

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The book was published by Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., of Missoula, Mont., March 1992; and it can be ordered by phone at (406) 549-8488, online at www.pictorialhistoriespublishing.com or e-mail phpc@montana.com.



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Who We Are...

What Makes You A Patriot?

**Specialist
Robert Bishop**

1/207th Aviation
Alaska Army National Guard



"I'm a patriot, because of the people I serve with"

**Captain
Guy Hayes**

Public Affairs Officer
Alaska National Guard



"As an American, I feel like it's my duty to serve my country, and I'm proud to do so."

Debbie Saddler

Administrative Clerk
DHS&EM



"My husband is in the military and served in Afghanistan last year. I really support what our troops are doing over there."

**First Sergeant
Andrew Blore**

3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry
Alaska Army National Guard



"I'm a patriot, because of the values instilled in me by my grandparents. They were both World War II officers. I want to give back so that future generations have the same freedoms that were bestowed on me."

Randall Beaubouef

Contractor, Alaska Army
National Guard Medical
Detachment



"My patriotism is defined by beliefs, morals and values. The ultimate act of patriotism is serving one's country at war."

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CW4 David D. Small 207th Avn

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CSM Gordon Choate 1st Bn
SFC John Drew 1st Bn
1SG Mark Dudek 1st Bn
MAJ Howard Franklin 1st Bn
MSG Troupe Jerould 1st Bn
SSG Travis R. Kulp 1st Bn
SSG Robert Lauer 1st Bn
MAJ Billie Matthews 1st Bn
SFC Timothy Smith 1st Bn
MAJ John Woyte 1st Bn
Col. Timothy Grams 176th OG

Meritorious Service Medal



MSgt Robert J. Segla 168th LRS
TSgt John C. Boyer 168th AMXS
SSgt Kenneth D. Rose 168th MXS
Lt Col Michael H. Quinn 168th ARW
SMSgt Kendell G. Gamblin 168th MSF
MSgt Ronald W. Lovell 168th MSF
MSgt Joyce A. Outten 168th MXG
Lt Col Michael H. Quinn 168th ARW
SMSgt Kendell G. Gamblin 168th MSF
MSgt Ronald W. Lovell 168th MSF
MSgt Joyce A. Outten 168th MXG
Lt Col Douglas K. Kelsch 168th OG
MSgt Lori D. Kelly 168th MSF
MSgt Ashley M. Hill 168th MSF
TSgt Robert S. Welch 168th AMXS
MSgt James W. Kimberly Jr 168th MXS
SSgt Todd A. Wloszczynski 168th ARS
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MAJ Wayne W. Santos 49th MDB
SFC Morris I. Carrillo 3rd Bn
LTC Beth A. Law JFHQ-AK (Army)
MAJ Keith A. Poorbaugh JFHQ-AK (Army)
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1SG Daniel L. Randall 3rd Bn
MSG Steven E. Otnes 3rd Bn
SPC Joseph A. Edwards JFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Robert D. Mandall 2nd Bn
SFC Ferfinand Cleveland 2nd Bn
1SG Walter A. Lewis 2nd Bn

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1SG Norman E. Yeaw 207th Avn
CW3 Pamela A. French 207th Avn
1SG James C. Schneiders 207th Avn
SSG Lawrence W. Brown 207th Avn
SSG Jimmy Paul 2nd Bn
SSG Fritz J. Brown 2nd Bn
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SFC Ramone G. Gutierrez 207th Bde
SSG Brent T. Mast 3rd Bn
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TSgt Janet S. Lemmons 176 MXS

Army Commendation Medal



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Joint Service Achievement Medal



1SG Andrew Blore207th Bde
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Army Achievement Medal



SFC Lisa M. HallidayJFHQ-AK (Army)
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SGT Stanley C. Rodger2nd Bn

Armed Forces Reserve Medal



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SFC Ferdinand Cleveland2nd Bn
CW4 Danny O. Larson207th Avn
CW4 David D. Small207th Avn

Alaska Distinguished Service Medal



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SSG Samuel D. English297th Spt Bn
SGT Barry C. Simpson297th Spt Bn
MAJ Keith A. PoorbaughMed Det
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SFC Arthur D. Hayes207th Avn
SFC Robert B. Mandell2nd Bn
SSG Frank A. Byerly207th Avn
SFC Morris J. Carrillo3rd Bn
SGT Stanley C. Rodgers2nd Bn
MSG Steven E. Otnes3rd Bn
1SG Daniel L. Randall3rd Bn
MSG Fuaau S. MaugaJFHQ-AK (Army)
SGT Leonard R. Grandbois207th Avn
MR Terry W. HicksJFHQ-AK (Army)

CSM Roger M. Nevells207th Bde
SSG Daniel Jr. Nanalook1st Bn
SSG Terry A. Durst207th Bde
SSG Eric J. Petersen207th Avn
SSG Franklin Loomis207th Bde
1LT Robert L. Pillow III207th Avn
MSG Frederick L. LambingJFHQ-AK (Army)
SFC Albert D. Magsayo207th Bde
SSG Johnny J. Powell Jr207th Bde
SFC Donald G. RameyRTI
SFC Douglas D. Rowe207th Avn
SFC Troy S. Zimmerman3rd Bn

Alaska Commendation Medal



SPC William J. Smith49th MDB
SPC Jason M. Stolz49th MDB
SFC Roger A. DeanJFHQ-AK (Army)
August SchultzDMVA
SSG Roy C. Brendible Jr3rd Bn
SSG James H. Chase2nd Bn
SGT Charlie F. Tommy2nd Bn
SGT Ronnie R. Peter2nd Bn
SGT Steven A. Ernst207th Avn
SFC James N. Whitmore207th Bde

Alaska Community Service Medal



SPC Kenneth C. Nydam49th MDB

Alaska State Service Medal



1SG Andrew Blore207th Bde
COL Anne C. MoenJFHQ-AK (Army)
SGT Dennis J. Stankewich3rd Bn
SPC Kevin Atuk1st Bn
SSG Dick B. Kugzruk1st Bn
SGT Alden Balalong3rd Bn
CPT Paul T. Lincoln1st Bn

French Defense Nationale Medal (Bronze Level)

MSG Patrick MeeganJFHQ-AK (Army)

Region 6 Soldier of the Year
SPC Cynthia Hatzis207th Bde

**Soldier of the Quarter,
Camp Virginia, Kuwait**
SPC Joshua Powers3rd Bn

Senior Aviation Badge
SFC Seth A. Gordon207th Avn

All Soldiers who deployed with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard to Iraq from Sept. 2005 through Nov. 2006 also received the Armed Forces Reserve Medal Mobilization Device and Iraqi Campaign Ribbon.

PROMOTIONS

Brigadier General

Deborah C. McManusJFHQ-AK (Air)

Lieutenant Colonel

Douglas HarveyMed Det
Eric D. MaxonJFHQ-AK (Army)

Major

Brandon D. Jones211th RQS
Captain Joshua L. Shrader3rd Bn
Jodie L. Aubolhaining49th MDB
Kirk V. Thorsteinson3rd Bn
Michelle Wellmann207th Avn
Edward W. Durka144th AS
Scott J. Altenburg144th AS
Hanna L. Sims144th AS

First Lieutenant

Sarah L. Payeur207th Bde
William H. Berki207th Bde
Peter A. Poray144th AS

Second Lieutenant

John T. Callahan176th WG
Jeremy D. Groat210th RQS

Chief Warrant Officer Three

Stephen D. Law207th Avn

Chief Warrant Officer Two

Brian P. Baranek207th Avn
Sharon L. MackJFHQ-AK (Army)

Chief Master Sergeant

Tran Brunsberg168th MSG
Michael Schmidt211th RQS
Vicente R. Mandeville176th APF

Master Sergeant (E-8)

Donald G. RameyRTI

Senior Master Sergeant

John J. Labeau168th ARS

Charles E. Sears168th SFS
Danielle M. St. Laurent168th MDG
Jeffrey J. Jones176th SFS
Jennifer D. Keese144th AS
Mark D. Brauneis176th CES
Jon P. McCracken176th OSF
William A. Goodwin210th RQS
Richard C. MaxtedJFHQ-AK (Air)
William M. Barnett176th AMXS
Bradley W. Johnson176th ACS
David A. Mertens176th WG
Thomas E. Dietrich Jr210th RQS
Craig S. Wood176th MSG
Brett G. Reid176th MXS

Master Sergeant (E-7)

Jan F. Dover168th MXS
John P. Brunsberg168th LRS
John A. Laqua168th OSF
Daniel Ruonavarra168th AMXS
Edward A. Rouleau168th MXG

Bryan E. Hoppough168th MSF
 Brian W. Schlumbohm168th CF
 Scott D. Owen176th CES
 Brian C. Bunce206th CCS
 Sabrina M. May176th OG
 Martin M. Bellerive176th WG
 Roy J. Thornton Jr176th MXS
 Jennifer A. Demro176th ACS
 Richard W. Tingstad176th APF
 Eric B. Chester176th AMXS

Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Joel E. Duggins207th Bde
 Erik N. Myers207th Avn
 Jason S. Baker3rd Bn
 Robert D. Carson49th MDB
 Dale R. Kaiser49th MDB
 Matthew D. Martin49th MDB
 James R. Moore207th Bde

Technical Sergeant

Ronald D. Larner168th MXS
 Neal J. Waltman168th MXG
 Sam Amos168th AMXS
 Mary-Lou Petti168th AMXS
 Tracy P. Kurzenberger168th LRS
 Jeffrey A. Ling168th MXS
 Sarah J. Willey168th CF
 Robert E. Cave168th CF
 Richard L. Allen168th MXS
 Frederick G. Adams168th MXS
 Daniel A. Lescault168th MXS
 Randi K. Roberds168th MOF
 Ricky R. Ramos213 SWS
 David W. Kiernan213 SWS
 Andrew P. Seward168th SFS
 Scotty L. Lancaster168th SFS
 Dennis K. Jutras168th AMXS
 James A. Huston168th AMXS
 Anthony J. Kuntz168th MSG
 Michael W. Mashburn168th LRS
 Jason B. Deheus168th LRS
 Michael A. Brady213th SWS
 Kristopher K. Warren176th CES
 James V. Iagulli206th CCS
 Craig T. Michael210th RQS
 Paul M. Macy176th MXS
 Gary M. Weir144th AS
 Lamar A. Dunn176th WG
 Andre M. Marron210th RQS
 Timothy E. Stone144th AS
 Ronald J. Avellaneda176th MDG
 David K. Fuller176th ACS
 Zandra O. Teodosio176th MSF
 David M. McGee-Stunenkel176th MXS
 Roger D. Sparks212th RQS

Sergeant

Jerel L. Morrill1st Bn
 Michael O. Dunayski3rd Bn
 Peter P. William Jr2nd Bn
 Joseph Jr. Brown2nd Bn

Allen C. Dock1st Bn
 Scott W. McGee207th Avn
 Billy F. Austin207th Avn
 Melkart F. Hawi103rd CST

Staff Sergeant

Robert J. Ostrander168th ARS
 Reginald L. Fleming168th LRS
 Raymond J. Weber168th MXS
 Ivory L. McDaniel168th MXS
 Sunji Spencer168th AMXS
 Brian D. Binkley168th ARS
 James R. Prescott168th MXS
 James W. Hudnall168th ARW
 Steven M. Cherry176th MXS
 Nathan J. Randall176th SFS
 Darryl J. Wilson144th AS
 Leif C. Walters144th AS
 Travis R. Robotkay144th AS
 Troy M. Leonard176th SFS
 Jess J. Franco176th SFS
 Kristina R. Elliott176th SFS
 Kimberly M. Westfall176th CES
 Eric T. Coney176th OSF
 Beau V. Bellamy206th CCS
 Tyler J. Sutton176th APF
 Renee A. Groves211th RQS
 Sergio G. Cerda176th MDG
 Ronald A. Ratzlaff176th CF
 Brian C. Rowbotham176th MXG
 Rocco J. Pergola212th RQS
 Shawn A. Kane176th MDG
 Saroya J. Warren176th MSF
 Aldrine D. Baluyot176th CES
 Scott J. Ruta176th MXS

RETIREMENTS

SMSgt Brenda L. Nogueira168th LRS
 MSgt Joyce A. Outten168th MXG
 MSgt Kenneth D. Rose168th MXS
 CMSgt Robert J. Segla168th LRS
 SSgt Todd R. Wloszczynski168th ARS
 TSgt George M. Kellen168th MXS
 TSgt Robert S. Welch168th AMXS
 MSgt Lynn R. Johnson168th CF
 LTC Craig SchreiberJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC Denise M. MarshRTI
 SSG Roy C. Brendible Jr3rd Bn
 COL Anne C. MoenJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SPC Joseph A. EdwardsJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SFC Morris I. Carrillo3rd Bn
 MAJ Keith A. PoorbaughJFHQ-AK (Army)
 SGT Stanley C. Rodgers2nd Bn
 1SG Daniel L. Randall3rd Bn
 MSG Steven E. Otnes3rd Bn
 SPC Joseph A. EdwardsJFHQ-AK (Army)
 MSgt James Christenson176th MXS
 Lt Col David M. Montague176th OG
 SMSgt Michael StoltzJFHQ-AK (Air)
 CMSgt Nathan Casler176th MXS
 CMSgt Allen Storey176th APF
 Col Colleen Hough176th MDG
 Maj Robert Allen144th AS
 MSgt Lisa Kantor176th ACS
 SMSgt Fred Heiker144th AS

Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform annual training (AT) through the winter.

Alaska National Guard

	July	Aug.	Sept.
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Air)	14-15	11-12	22-23
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska (Army)	No Drill	11-12	8-9

Alaska Army National Guard

207th Infantry Group	4	10-12	No Drill
1/207th Aviation Regiment	No Drill	10-12	No Drill
297th Support Battalion	4	11-12	No Drill
Regional Training Institute	14-15	11-12	8-9

Alaska Air National Guard

168th Air Refueling Wing	15	No Drill	22-23
176th Wing	14-15	11-12	22-23

Alaska State Defense Force

Headquarters	21-22	18-19	15-16
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Start of the Trail

Welcome our newest members & employees

176th Wing

Eric Taylor
Michael Bisnar
Douglas Rotach
Steven Medina
Charles Davis li
Jacob Robinson
Chelsey Lorenz
Yutashea Zirkle
Nathaniel Reichard
Derek Halsey
Leonard Relonza
Lamar Dunn
Keith Kalkiewics
Michelle Scalzo
Sebastian Oliva
Alison Casler
Steven Ectinaw
Shane Hargis
Jose Abdelnoor
Tim Ingraham
Vershawn Idom
Michael Cooper
Trisha Willis
Troy Leonard
Llyod Llaneza
Pamela Masor
Jennifer Peters
David Dewey
Aaron Larson
Guy Hayes
Christopher Perham
Catherine O'Donnell
Francisco Guerra
Michael Freyholtz
Chester Kozak
Jessica Pena
Richard Cary
Clinton Miller
Ben Kaufman
Albert Myers
Colton Nelson

168th Air Refueling Wing

Rodney Phillips
Sarah Teeter
Therra Freling
Jennifer Smith
Le-Ann Manabat
Carl Kohntopp
Marcus Bentley

Cameron Bynum
Juliette McGee
Todd Dean
Michael Gilman
Matt Heneveld
Julia Kobernuss
Ella Doak
Tera Koch
Tim Bogowith
Jordan Ross
David Davis
Jessica Heaven
Erik Storoy
Christine Davis
Ryan Moore
Marvin McNamee
Jessica Ingham

213th Space Warning Squadron

Douglas Burch
Robert Summers

207th Infantry Brigade

Michael Alfaro
Anders Ekstrand
Zachary Gardner
Doug Kelly
Ariel Silva

1st Battalion

Mackay Barr
Jonathan Garrabrant

Elijah Gutierrez
Justin Joe
Matthew Millette
Garrett Savok
Russell Shewfelt

2nd Battalion

Alden Boyscout
Justin Rojeski

3rd Battalion

Shawn Beaird
Darshan Dogra
Rai Garangmau
Cory Lockhart
Anthony Nelson
Mark Sabado
Jonathan Sholl
Timothy Sul

297th Support Battalion

Wesley Archer
Erick Bacod
Ethan Carrico
Michael Dinnocenzo
Sarah Guttierrez
Michelle Martin
Paul Miller
Alex Murany
Justin Parkhurst
Jimmy Pingiatello
Mark Sequ

Oksana Sprecher
Erica Stinsky
Mong Vang

207th Aviation

Vincent Eickholt
Kyle Francione
Benjamin Gruver
Michael Guzman
Richard Hercher
Jonathan Hillman
Aaron Johnson
Yaroslav Lund
Timothy Mathews
Amber Mcgehee
Dylan Mobley
Odin Ramsey
Cheryl Sherman
Danielle Simeone
Kyle Stangl
Sean Stivaletta
Misieli Taufaeteau
Chelsea Walker
Thomas Watega
Carl Watson

Army Guard Medical Detachment

Tasha Halsema
Tony Jager
Jacquelyn Little
Michael Richeal
Justin Toner



Desert Re-enlistment. Lieutenant Colonel Alison Queair, Alaska Army National Guard, re-enlists Specialist Karla Moses into the Alaska Army National Guard while she was deployed to Afghanistan with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 297th Support Battalion. Moses' long term goals include attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks and becoming an officer in the Alaska Army National Guard. Photo: Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Alison Queair



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